

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179478
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179478

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: NEW YORK TIMES STORY

1. WE ALERTED YOU IN EARLIER CABLE TO FACT THAT BERNIE GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES INTENDS TO PRINT MAJOR STORY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIAN JEWRY SITUATION IN SUNDAY EDITION, JULY 31. STORY WILL INDICATE, POSSIBLY AT-TRIBUTED TO WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE BOTH SPOKEN TO ASSAD ABOUT THE ISSUE, INCLUDING SITUATION OF UNMARRIED WOMEN.

2. IF THE SYRIANS RAISE WITH YOU THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONFIRMED THIS PART OF THE STORY, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT GWERTZMAN ASSUMED THERE HAD BEEN EXCHANGES WITH ASSAD AND WAS GOING TO SAY THIS IN ANY EVENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CONFIRMATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO CONFIRM IT.
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3. YOU MIGHT ALSO EXPLAIN TO THE SYRIANS THAT THE STORY IS BREAKING IN A WAY WHICH PUTS A FAVORABLE AND POSITIVE LIGHT ON THE ACTIONS OF ASSAD AND THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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